Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 9. (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended)   A method for obtaining a transport format combination indicator (TFCI) value, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

collecting received samples;

processing the received samples to obtain soft TFCI symbols;

decoding the soft TFCI symbols to obtain a TFCI value;

evaluating the TFCI value to determine if it is a valid index of a transport format combination set (TFCS);

if the TFCI value is a valid index of the TFCS, then

using the TFCI value obtained in [[said]] the decoding step and ending the method;

if the TFCI value is not a valid index of the TFCS, then

selecting a valid TFCI value and using the selected TFCI value.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein [[said]] the selecting [[step]] includes selecting a decoded TFCI value from a previous frame.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein [[said]] the selecting [[step]] includes selecting a decoded TFCI value from a previous minimum transmission time interval.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein [[said]] the selecting [[step]] includes selecting a TFCI value corresponding to the first entry in the TFCS.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein [[said]] the selecting [[step]] includes selecting a TFCI value from a list of recently decoded TFCI values, wherein the selected TFCI value has been output the most frequently.